

The following proposal was submitted prior to the proposal deadline but was inadvertently excluded from the proposal book. It is scheduled for consideration by the Board of Game at the March 2017 meeting.

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose, lengthen the general season and adopt an “any bull” registration permit as follows:

Amend resident moose hunting seasons in Units 11 and 13 by eliminating the CSH moose hunt, lengthening the general season, and adding a late season “any bull” registration hunt.

Retain existing moose registration hunt in Unit 11 and moose drawing hunts in Unit 13.

General Season: Align Units 11 and 13 general moose season length to run August 20 – September 20, retaining existing general season bag limits in each unit; Unit 13: spike-fork, 50-inch, four brow tine; Unit 11: spike-fork, 50-inch, three brow tine.

New Late Season Registration Permit Hunt(s): The late season registration moose hunt(s) will have a bag limit of “any bull” and run November 15 - 30. The hunt(s) will be offered in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

- That portion of Unit 11 (outside the Nabesna Road Registration Permit Area) and Unit 13 within 10 miles of the Edgerton Highway, the Tok Cutoff, and the Richardson Highway between the Tok Cutoff and the Edgerton Highway. Collectively, this area can be referred to as the Copper Valley Permit Area (CVPA). Registration permits for the CVPA must be picked up within the unit (Glennallen), first come first serve. Issue up to 500 permits.
- Remainder of Unit 11; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 20 permits.
- Unit 13A West; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 20 permits.
- Remainder of Unit 13A; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 20 permits.
- Remainder of Unit 13B; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 50 permits.
- Remainder of Unit 13C; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 75 permits.
- Remainder of Unit 13D; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 75 permits.
- Unit 13E; registration permit available online, first come first serve. Issue up to 75 permits.

Hunters should be limited to one late season registration moose permit per season within Units 11 and 13.

Regulations to be amended as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(9)

Unit 11, that portion east of the east bank of the
Copper River upstream from and including the
Slana River drainage

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL PER HARVEST REPORT
BY COMMUNITY HARVEST
PERMIT ONLY; HOWEVER, NO
MORE THAN
100 BULLS THAT DO
NOT MEET ANTLER
RESTRICTIONS FOR
OTHER RESIDENT HUNTS
IN THE SAME AREA MAY
BE TAKEN IN THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY HARVEST
AREA DURING THE AUG.
10 - SEPT. 20 SEASON; OR]

AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20
DEC. 1 - DEC. 31
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)

1 bull with
spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers or
antlers
with 3 or more brow tines
on one side,
by registration permit
only

Aug. 20 - Sept 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or
antlers with 3 or more
brow tines on
one side, by
registration permit
only

Aug. 20 - Sept. 17

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 11]
[1 BULL PER

HARVEST REPORT BY
COMMUNITY HARVEST
PERMIT

ONLY; HOWEVER, NO
MORE THAN

100 BULLS THAT DO
NOT MEET

ANTLER RESTRICTIONS
FOR OTHER RESIDENT
HUNTS IN THE SAME
AREA MAY BE TAKEN IN
THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
HARVEST AREA DURING
THE AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20
SEASON; OR]

AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20

(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)

DEC. 1 - DEC. 31

(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)

Resident Hunters:

**That portion of Unit 11 within
10 miles of the Edgerton Highway, the
Tok Cutoff, and the Richardson
Highway between the Tok Cutoff and
the Edgerton Highway, or**

1 bull with

spike-fork antlers

or 50-inch antlers or
antlers

with 3 or more brow tines
on one side;

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

1 bull by Registration Permit

Available in Glennallen

Oct 1- Nov 30

**Permits Available in Glennallen Only Up
to 500 Permits may be issued, or**

Nov. 15 – Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 11

Resident Hunters:

1 bull with

spike-fork antlers

or 50-inch antlers or

antlers with 3 or more

brow tines on one

side;

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

1 bull by Registration Permit
outside of the Copper Valley
Permit Area (CVPA)
Permits available online
Oct 1- Nov 30
Up to 20 permits may be issued

Nov. 15 – Nov. 30

(11)

Units and Bag Limits
Unit 13

1 moose per
regulatory year
only as follows:

Resident Hunters:
[1 BULL PER HARVEST
REPORT
BY COMMUNITY
HARVEST PERMIT ONLY;
HOWEVER, NO
MORE THAN
100 BULLS THAT DO
NOT MEET ANTLER
RESTRICTIONS FOR
OTHER RESIDENT HUNTS
IN THE SAME AREA MAY
BE TAKEN IN THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY HARVEST
AREA DURING THE AUG.
10 - SEPT. 20
SEASON; OR]

AUG. 20 - SEPT. 20

DEC. 1 - DEC. 31

(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)

1 bull with
spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers
or
antlers with 4 or
more brow tines
on one side;

Aug. 20, [SEPT. 1] – Sept. 20

or

1 bull, by registration
permit only **as follows:**

[DEC. 1 – DEC. 31]
Nov. 15 – Nov. 30

Copper Valley Permit Area (CVPA)
That portion of Unit 13 within
10 miles of the Edgerton Highway,
the Tok Cutoff, and the Richardson
Highway between the Tok Cutoff
and the Edgerton Highway,
Permits Available in Glennallen Only
Oct 1 - Nov 30
Up to 500 Permits may be issued

Unit 13A west of the Lake Louise
Road, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake,
Tyone Lake, and the Tyone River
Permits available online
Oct 1- Nov 30
Up to 20 permits may be issued

Unit 13A east of the Lake Louise
Road, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake,
Tyone Lake, and the the Tyone River,
outside of the CVPA
Permits available online
Oct 1- Nov 30
Up to 20 permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 13B
Permits available online
Oct 1 - Nov 30
Up to 50 permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 13C
Permits available online
Oct 1 - Nov 30
Up to 75 permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 13D
Permits available online
Oct 1 - Nov 30
Up to 75 permits may be issued

Unit 13E
Permits available online

Oct 1- Nov 30

Up to 75 permits may be issued

1 antlerless
moose by drawing
permit only; up to
200 permits
may be issued; a person may
not take a calf or
a cow accompanied
by a calf; or

Oct. 1 – Oct. 31
Mar. 1 – Mar. 31
(General hunt only)

1 bull moose by
Drawing permit only,
Up to 5 permits may
Be issued;

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side
by drawing permit
only; up to 150
permits may be issued.

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? These hunts will provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence moose hunting for all Alaskan hunters, while eliminating the confusing and burdensome regulations associated with the community subsistence hunt. General season moose hunts offer subsistence opportunity throughout the state, and have in Unit 11 for many years. They can offer this opportunity again within Unit 13, particularly given recent general season harvest numbers that exceed ANS. Resident subsistence moose hunters will have a priority over nonresident and resident drawing permit hunters. Resident hunters will have four and a half weeks in the fall general season, and then another two weeks in early winter in the registration hunt to harvest a moose. The resident take through these hunts will more than meet ANS. The extended fall hunt dates should be sustainable in Unit 13 (as they are in Unit 11) given the high early hunt pressure recently seen during the CSH. The extended season will accommodate traditional moose hunting activities, including family oriented hunting opportunity (before school).

The two week November registration hunt offers a “second chance” for those not successful during the general season. This early winter time frame allows for travel into some areas that are normally un-hunted during the fall due to open water (supported by continually high bull:cow ratios in some areas). It also offers family hunting opportunity over the Thanksgiving holiday. While we recognize there will be post-rut concentrations of moose in higher elevations, the limited number of permits for these areas will reduce harassment and keep harvest sustainable.

This proposal moves Unit 13 moose management away from arbitrary subsistence harvest objectives such as 100 “any bull” moose, and towards a scenario where harvest opportunity can be maximized in direct relation to how many bulls remain after each hunting season. By establishing permit numbers in regulation, this hunt offers sustainability and a hunting opportunity hunters can plan for. We would like to see the maximum permit numbers be issued in year one. If in three years, bull:cow ratios are still above objectives or they are compromised in a specific area(s), permit numbers can be altered. If there is a demonstrated biological problem earlier, ADF&G can reduce permit numbers. No arbitrary quotas or Emergency Orders are necessary.

A high number of registration permits is suggested for the CVPA because it is mostly “pass through” country along the highway corridor in Unit 11 and 13. There are likely some resident moose within the corridor, but most moose in the area during November are likely moving in from the surrounding lightly hunted areas. Much of this land is also privately owned, so access and harvest opportunity will be limited.

Conservative registration permit numbers should be set for areas with heavy fall hunting pressure given current bull:cow ratios such as in 13B and the western portion of 13A. Moderate permit numbers can be set for 13C, 13D and 13E considering much of the moose habitat in these areas is inaccessible during the fall and thus lightly hunted. Continually high bull:cow ratios and increasing moose numbers in these areas suggest additional harvest will be sustainable. In the case of 13E there will also be some bulls migrating out of park areas that are otherwise closed to state hunters, becoming available to state subsistence hunters for the first time.

Given existing proxy regulations, late season registration hunters will be able to proxy hunt for others, but only once per season within Unit 13.

Units 11 and 13 moose (and caribou) hunting regulations are needlessly complex and intertwined. The harvestable surplus of moose now far exceeds ANS, yet confusing and unnecessarily restrictive subsistence hunting regulations remain. What began as a limited subsistence priority through the Community Subsistence Hunt (CSH), has become a burdensome and complicated hunt for the masses of resident hunters interested in the once available proxy opportunity, a longer moose season and a chance at harvesting a bull moose without antler restrictions. These benefits have drawn in hunters from all over the state. The overly restrictive salvage requirements and the restrictions on other hunting opportunities have clearly not worked to restrict the hunt to those that may need it the most. The large number of CSH participants has actually increased the hunting competition in this area to the point of saturation, and no longer resembles subsistence hunting in any way. It is time to separate the Unit 11 and 13 moose (and caribou) hunts and simplify the hunting regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist and Rebecca Schwanke

(EG-F16-169)
